

# Suggest 20-Cent Recreation Tax Levy

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## BOY, 7, NEARLY LOSES LEG CRUSHED BY PUMP



(Herald Photo by Reid Bundy)

**PERILOUS PERCH . . .** It took two of R. C. Williams' tow trucks and four hours to get this sedan off the railroad trestle near 190th St. and Hawthorne Ave. Thursday morning after an unidentified driver going east on 190th St.

hurled through the intersection at Hawthorne, bounced 300 feet through weeds and up a 30-foot railroad embankment to come to rest on the trestle. Police Sgt. John Maestri and Officer John Hahn are inspecting the car, which was registered to Harry J. Engle, 2202 E. Spring St., Long Beach.

### Rocking-Horse Pump Crushes Leg Below Knee

While waiting for his birthday cake to come out of his grandmother's oven, seven-year-old David Ramsey ran out to play yesterday and may lose his leg after it was crushed by an oil well pump on which he was playing at 2361 W. 233rd St.

Speeding to the Harbor General Hospital in the ambulance with their injured son were the victim's parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Ramsey of 23821 Madison Ave., Waverly.

The boy had come with his parents to visit his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Ramsey, 2362 W. 231st St., who were planning a birthday party for the boy.

According to witnesses the boy was playing near the rocking-horse pump of a recently toppled derrick belonging to Earl Robinson and located on 233rd St. He caught his leg between the ankle and knee in the moving machinery.



**MY SON, MY SON!** . . . The scream of the ambulance's siren pierces the afternoon air as the father and mother (left) of seven-year old David Ramsey attempt to comfort their son. The boy's grandfather (right) encourages him by telling him it's "tough luck to get hurt on your birthday." The boy may lose a leg as a result of an oil well accident yesterday.

### Couple's Second Set

## Twins Undergo Blood Switch

A set of twins, the second born to a Torrance couple in 15 months, have undergone a complete transfer of blood to prevent death from complications arising from contradicting RH factors.

Doctors at the Children's Hospital in Los Angeles reported the girl's condition as "fine," while the boy, the second born, was reported as being in "fair" condition.

The twins were born at the Torrance Memorial Hospital Thursday evening, to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jones, 25311 Weston Rd. The girl, Denise, arrived at 6:37 p.m. and weighed 4 pounds, 14 ounces. Dennis, her brother, arrived 18 minutes later weighing 5 pounds, 2 ounces. They were approximately two weeks premature.

When the youngsters' trouble became apparent the doctor who made delivery and who wishes to remain unidentified, ordered the babies sent to the Children's Hospital. There Dr. Phil Sturgeon, a leading hematologist, diagnosed the twins' illness as erythroblastosis.

The Jones' other twins, Debra and Donna, were born Nov. 21, 1951 without any RH complications.

The mother, Rosalie, returned home Saturday morning.

## Each New Home May Pay \$25

The green light flashed on an expanded recreation program in Torrance Wednesday night when the City Council and City Recreation Commission, meeting in joint session, agreed on two methods to increase recreation funds and a method to facilitate the purchase of land for recreation.

The Council unofficially:

1. Authorized the commission to accumulate information and sound out voters on the possibility of a property tax of 20 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

2. Approved the levying of a \$25 fee per residential lot in all new subdivisions, which would be used to expand present facilities and purchase land.

3. Approved a land-freezing ordinance which would keep park sites open until funds are available for purchase.

Attending were Councilmen Harvey Spelman, Victor Benstead and Mayor M. M. Schwab; Commission Chairman Darwin Parrish; Commissioners C. W. Olson, A. J. Patrosky, Bert Johnson, Mrs. W. C. Boswell, and Mrs. Phyllis Laughon, City Manager George Stevens; and City Attorney Jim Hall.

**Action Anticipated**

Official action is expected on all three measures at Tuesday's regular council session.

The special tax, which would bring in approximately \$120,000 per year at the present time, was considered preferable to two other methods proposed by the commission to augment recreation money; a trash pickup fee of 75 cents per residential unit with a pro-rated fee per business, and a levy of 75 cents per water meter or family unit.

Commission members will begin the survey of public opinion on the tax as soon as the official go-ahead signal is given in hopes that reaction can be obtained before August, when the council sets the tax rate for the 1953-54 fiscal year.

**Money in 1954**

Money from this tax would then be available to the commission around January of 1954.

The \$25 fee per residential lot proposed by the city manager, however, would add to recreation funds almost immediately.

In speaking for the ordinance, Stevens said, "The people buying these new homes are the ones who are creating the need for more recreation facilities, and they should be both willing and able to support the expanded program."

**Plan Land-Freeze**

The land-freezing ordinance, if passed by the council, would set aside selected areas for a period of one year, thus giving the commission time to acquire funds for the purchase.

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### Warn Merchants On More Stolen Payroll Checks

Another warning to Torrance merchants on a batch of stolen payroll checks was issued yesterday by Detective Sergeant Percy Bennett of the Torrance Police Department.

The warning was prompted when a check stolen from F. A. Sherry, who runs a welding shop at 22127 S. Avalon, was cashed with a forged signature at the Sav-Mart market at 234th St. and Western Ave. The check was made out for \$68.72.

Bennett said the checks were stolen from the welding shop about six weeks ago. Nearly 30 of them were taken at the time, he said, and only a few have been filled out and cashed.

The check to Sav-Mart was made out to a W. H. Oxford, according to the detective.

### Tape Recorder Use to be Shown At TEAC Meeting

A demonstration of the use of tape recorders in classrooms will be shown at the meeting of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee in the YWCA building at noon on March 9, according to Howard A. Wood, moderator.

The demonstration will be staged by the fourth grade group from El Nido School.

Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, will report on his recent trip to Atlantic City where he attended the American Association of School Administrators convention.

### Former THS Girls to Fly East for Wave Training

To be sworn into the Navy Tuesday to serve with the Waves are two former Torrance High School girls, according to Clifford E. Findley, ENC, recruiter in charge of the Navy's Gardena sub-station.

Joining the Navy are Thelma Larace Selph and Colleen Evelyn Mooney. They are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Selph, 925 Border Ave., and Mr. and Mrs. William M. Mooney, 905 Sartori Ave., Apt. C, respectively.

Shortly after the swearing-in ceremonies the pair will leave via American Airlines for Baltimore, Md., to receive their basic training.

Other girls interested in joining the Waves are urged to contact Findley at the recruiting sub-station, 1822 Market St., Gardena. "The Navy will be enlisting a large number of young ladies with the next few months. We need young ladies between the ages of 16 and 25 who can meet the high mental, moral and physical standards of the Waves," said Findley.



COLLEEN MOONEY — THELMA SELPH

To Be Sworn in WAVES

### New Director Named

Richard S. Reade has been appointed director of purchases of American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corp., Thomas W. McNeil, vice president, purchasing, announced yesterday.

### Burglar Pilfers \$\$\$

While she was visiting her neighbor for about 15 minutes Thursday, someone entered her house and stole a jewel case, a silver dollar, 10 one-dollar bills, and a five-dollar bill, Mrs. William Thorp, of 16122 Wilton Pl., told Torrance police.

### Police Seeking Hit-Run Driver

Torrance police are looking for a hit-run driver here following a crash near the Harvey Machine Co. on Western Ave. last week.

Mrs. Ida May LaRue, of Compton, told police that a car came up behind her at a high rate of speed as she was driving north on Western Ave., and struck her auto in the rear.

The driver came to Mrs. LaRue's auto to see if she was hurt, and when asked if he would help her get her car out of the roadway, said he would turn around and push her.

He climbed into his auto and scrambled. A license plate dropped at the scene by an auto may lead to his apprehension, police said.

### Keith Jones, Former Resident, Suffers Stroke

Keith Jones, former Torrance resident now living in Palm Dale, suffered a stroke Wednesday and will be confined to his bed for at least six weeks, friends and relatives here have been notified.

An active member of the Torrance Kiwanis Club during his residence in Torrance, Jones is now president of the Palmdale Kiwanis. Both Jones and his wife, Rose, were leaders in Scouting in Torrance for a number of years.

A brother of Charles Ver Jones, owner of Torrance Hardware, Keith is associated with the Forest Lumber Co. of Lancaster. Doctors attending the former Torrance businessman attributed his illness to a clot on the brain.



RAFAEL MENDEZ

... Heifetz of the Trumpet

## Famed Cornetist To Perform Here

A famous cornetist who remembers the old days when the wrong note could have been the last, Rafael Mendez, will be soloist with the Torrance Area Youth Band at its May 21 concert here.

Mendez, known as the "Heifetz of the Trumpet," started his fabulous career when he was just 10 years old, playing with his father's village band for Pancho Villa, the rebel terror of Mexico.

He, his father, and six brothers were drafted into Villa's Army because the general liked music.

Cornet Melts  
After the family was given permission to go home several months later, Rafael stayed with Villa and soothed the general frequently by playing his favorite song, "Adelita." Rafael liked to play the general's song, but not in the hot sun without the shade of his brother's big bass horn, because if the sun shone on his cornet, held together with wax, it would melt and fall to pieces.

But Villa wouldn't listen—so the wax melted and the cornet made a sound like a phonograph running down. The infuriated general grabbed the horn, threw it to the ground where it scattered apart—and later bought the finest cornet in Mexico for his boy trumpeter.

That all happened 30 years ago, but Mendez still has both of these cornets—and a lot of memories, too.

One of the most outstanding is a spanking from General Villa himself, Rafael got this when he, with the naïveté of the 10-year-old, calmly told the gen-

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## Steel Job Mill Here Shutdown After 26 Years

The jobbing mill at Columbia Steel, in operation here since 1927, was shut down Friday night in the first step toward the gradual curtailment of sheet mill operations at the local steel-making plant.

The 35 men affected by the shutdown were absorbed on other jobs in the sheet mill, a company spokesman said yesterday.

A shutdown of the three-high mill to five turns (shifts) per week and the shutdown of the Number Three mill to ten turns a week is expected to take place by the end of March, the company official said.

### Heavy Smoker Cops Fags

One Torrance area cigarette fiend has taken steps to beat the recent rise in the cost of smokes.

Joseph A. Rizzo, manager of Roth's Market here, told police Thursday that someone entered the store late in the afternoon and stole 88 cartons of cigarettes.

The haul included all the popular brands, regular and king size, Rizzo said.